

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

February, 1998

Vol. XVIII #1

John W. Blehm, Secretary / Treasurer

Ameraucana Breeders Club, 4599 Lange, Birch Run, MI 48415

Yearly Membership Dues are \$10.00 / Family, \$7.50 / Individual and \$5.00 / Junior.

Members receive quarterly Bulletins & are eligible for awards offered by the club.

New Members also receive a ABC Handbook.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- Daniel & Jeanette Pasche (family), Glenwood, MN
- Jan Resberg, Duluth, MN
- Robert A. Rennolet, Menno, SD
- Darren & Shannon Mordecai (family), Lucas, TX
- George Patterson, Kitt Hills, OH
- Lynn Walker, Loudon, TN

It feels like SPRING today in Michigan. I've got to start my incubator soon and hatch chicks, so they'll (maybe) be ready for our National Meet this fall. Remember the national will be in Alma, Michigan on the second weekend in October. For show information contact: Dick Ross, 2180 Froede, Caro, MI 48723. More information will be in the May Bulletin.

Are your dues paid for 1998? Please check the updated membership list, in this bulletin, and if you are not listed, either I haven't received your dues or I've made a mistake in record keeping. If you paid and don't see your name on the list, let me know. This will be the last bulletin to many that haven't paid. I have started a club checking account at a Credit Union, so make checks payable to: Ameraucana Breeders Club.

We only have seven handbooks, to issue to first time members and I'll have some new ones printed. Thanks to Mike Gilbert for revising & updating our Constitution and Bylaws. Please review them and let Mike know of any comments, corrections and/or changes so the Board can vote on them. Also, I would appreciate any input regarding the new Handbook. If you would like to help fund the layout & printing of new Handbooks, you may send contributions or buy a business card size ad for \$35.

The guidelines for Club Meets is addressed in our Bylaws. State and Regional meets shall be placed at the request of any member in cooperation with the district director and coordinated with the secretary-treasurer. If you request a meet, you will have some responsibilities but also a change to win Rosettes. Usually the club offers to its members, with three or more exhibiting: a Rosette for Champion and Rosette for Reserve Champion with both Large Fowl and Bantams competing.

The Wisconsin International Poultry Club would like the ABC to have a meet at their show, September 26-27, at Janesville. Any takers?

1/21/98

To all my Friends, no matter if we have met or not, this is a "GOOD" thing. I have accepted the duties of Western District Director of the Ameraucana Breeders Club.

I would like to thank Mr. John Blehm and Mr. Mike Gilbert for considering me for this position.

For many years I've worked hard with the blue wheatens, striving to get the bluest eggs. There hasn't been much interest in Montana for this breed.

Though I have shown them and handed out information on the breed. But last year my birds finally gained some attention from the public and judges. My decision was made, work harder and keep these fluffy faced beauties.

The western district consists of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. I would like to see a state meet for every state in the district. With such a large district, I need you to request a meet in your state.

Just write me and give me possible show sites. I will do the rest. Promotion creates interest. Thank You.

*Koralyn Kibbee
9069 Wooden Shoe
Manhattan, Montana 59741*

1/21/98

John, Here is my membership dues-for two years. Hope all is going well for you in the new year...you have my best wishes and support.

*Take care-
Jeannette (Frank)*

January, 1998

Hi John,

I haven't written anyone in some time. I am in the new house, but still have a lot of yard work to do come spring. I did pick up a few "Easter egg" chickens and silver old english bantams this fall. I may be able to make something out of them. I bought a pair of canaries before Christmas and will try to raise some. I hate winter chores anymore and this will give me something to fuss over indoors in the dead of winter. I plan to get up your way this fall for the show and to go see Willie's Sausage shop again. Maybe I can pick up some breeders then. My wife cleaned up all my papers around Christmas and I can't find my last newsletter. I guess dues are still \$7.50...so I am sending them to you...

*Best Wishes
Jerry (Segler)*

2/2/98

Hi: ...I am still very interested in Standard size Birds that are of show quality. I would like a white cockerel & pullet plus a black pullet. I haven't been able to find chickens that have the right leg color...I went to the national and showed polish standards and an araucana bantam cockerel. I had 4 birds, 3 got 1st places and 1-3rd place. The araucana, was 1st and will receive a plaque from this breeders club...We are having a heat wave, 51 degrees at 1 p.m.. Our winter has been mild. We have plenty of snow in the mountains.

As Ever,
Betty (Rundquist)

February, 1998

Proud to have a few Ameraucana Bantams again - Thanks to Mike Gilbert...Ameraucana bantams and Holland Lop (dwarf) rabbits. I hope to raise a few Ameraucana bantams this spring. I'll not be able to get over to the Alma show, much as I'd like to. We do one...in Lafayette, IN & sure enough, the dates conflict...

Best Wishes
Ron (Klemmedson)
608-525-7353

2/4/98

Dear John:

I want to get started in both large and bantam. Please advise me as to whom to deal with.

Sincerely
George Patterson

2/11/98

Dear Mr. Blehm,

...I just want to let you know that the Ameraucana breeders we have met have been very helpful and very friendly. Emma is raising buff bantams and I am fond of black and blue large birds and bantams. We would like to get a blue or black bantam rooster.

Sincerely
Diane Gilpin

FRANK & ERNEST



2/20/98

Sir,

...We ordered 25 chicks from Mt. Healthy Hatchery (1996). We enjoyed those tiny quail-like chicks so much, then as they grew & matured...lay blue-green eggs...they were my favorite of light Brahmans, RI reds, buff orpingtons & australorps, and the cochins. We found blue & gold colored Ameraucanas at Galax, VA swap & bought all of them.

We had the wild-bird colors (browns), black, white & the beautiful gold & blue. Our house burned in Nov. and we lost them all. Help!

Lynn Walker (423-458-2130)

Bob Rennolet of South Dakota (605-928-4020) is in the market for large fowl whites. The males, he has, are brassy.

As you have read, some of our follow members are looking for Ameraucanas. If you can help, please contact them.

Results from the Indiana Poultry Breeders Association show, 12/6-7/97, are: Champion Ameraucana, black pullet by Ruth Whitney. End of report.

Western director, Koralyn Kibbee has requested a state (regional) meet at the Montana Poultry Fanciers show, July 17, 18 & 19.

Here are some more notes & letters to share. Some were buried in my files.

10/29/97

...As for the Hutchinson show, we had no meet scheduled but still had 6 exhibitors, 20 bantams and 10 large fowl AM's....Arne Schmidt had BOB and reserve AOSB on a black pullet, and I had BOB in bantams-and Champ. AOCCL-on my white pullet (you have her daddy). So two AM's on champion row in spite of no meet. This was esp. sweet for me, to place above some very good bantams in black sumatra, white crested black polish, mottled houdan, and cornish. One of our junior member, Emily Gilpin, had 3 AM. Bantams in the junior show also,...reserve of breeds...large fowl : John Bashaw on white pullet, bantams: yours truly on blue pullet.

Best to All

Mike Gilbert

November, 1997

Dear John,

The Northern New York Poultry Fanciers will hold an open poultry show on May 3rd, 1998, at the arena in Waddington, N.Y....We would appreciate your support.

Sincerely, C. Bob Robert, Show Secretary, Box 332, Madrid, NY 13660

12/24/97

I would like to know if anyone has white Ameraucanas. I would like to have baby chicks or some eggs...

Thank You

Vernon G. Green

STATE OF THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS' CLUB

The domino effect of our former secretary-treasurer's resignation last year has resulted in yours truly reassuming, at least temporarily, the office of A.B.C. president. This is where we began twenty years ago when a small group of fanciers first breathed life into what was then the Ameraucana Bantam Club. While most of those original A.B.C.'ers have since moved on to other interests, their successors and those who did remain have managed to maintain a viable club over the years. While the membership in terms of numbers has been fairly steady, the rate of attrition has been something less than satisfactory in our opinion. Perhaps other breed clubs experience similar turnover in membership, but we hate to lose *any* member, as we believe ours is the very best.

As we head into another hatching season let's do a little self-examination that could possibly result in some growth and added vitality for our club. Here we go.

A. The Breed: Like nearly all purebred breeds of poultry (including Araucanas) Ameraucanas represent a medley of various strains that were combined to form an ideal combination of traits as set forth in A.B.A.'s Bantam Standard and in the A.P.A.'s Standard Of Perfection. Prior to standard formation and recognition, chaos reigned when it came to judging blue-egg fowl at fairs, shows, or other competitions. In this respect the A.B.C. has provided a genuine and much needed service to the U.S. poultry fancy.

B. Characteristics: As aptly stated in Bantam Standard's preface to the Ameraucana standard, the most useful and desirable traits available to blue-egg fowl were chosen. Hence Ameraucana breeders need not deal with the lethal genetics required for the ear tufts of the Araucana breed or for the creeper gene present in short-legged Japanese bantams. This means that 100 percent hatches are possible under good management conditions instead of expecting a normal 25 percent death rate of unhatched embryos. Further, we have avoided the mechanical reproductive problems associated with the rumplessness of Araucanas and the excessive fluff of Cochins and some other breeds.

Moderately sized pea combs and the absence of wattles negate the effects of sub-zero temperatures of northern climates. Naturally colored blue eggshells help attract the interest of beginners. Muffs and beards add a special attractiveness and present an extra conditioning challenge to the serious exhibitor. Slate shanks avoid discoloration due to fading yellow pigment and prevent dirt from showing under the edges of scales as so often occurs with white or yellow shanked birds. A wide range of color varieties in both bantams and large fowl present both challenges and opportunities for achievement. And since no other recognized breed offers a similar combination of features, it is *unique!*

C. Sources: Currently purebred Ameraucana chicks are available from at least three sources that we are aware of, and there may be others. The Crow Hatchery of Missouri, Urch Poultry Farm of Minnesota, and our secretary John Blehm of Michigan all ship chicks through the post office. Unfortunately some hatcherys continue to dupe the public by selling mongrel colored-egg chickens as either "Araucanas" or "Ameraucanas."

Adult and started birds may be shipped via express mail from coast to coast. For sale and want-ads may be printed free of charge in the A.B.C. newsletter. Conclusion? There should be no shortage of acceptable stock in the more common varieties for persons who are willing to pay a fair and reasonable price. The rare varieties continue to offer opportunities for those willing to apply their skill, perseverance, and diligence.

D. The Shows: If Poultry Press reports are any indication, few Ameraucanas are shown aside from our annual national meet. Yet, when we do show, an Ameraucana ends up on champion row as often as not. If this breed has everything going for it, why are we not showing more? Perhaps the answer can be found in the the memorable words of the comic-strip character Pogo: "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Here are some questions for each of us to ponder as we start out the new year. Have a great one!

1. Have I focused on any specific goals for my flock's improvement?
2. Have I planned how to achieve those goals? And what is "Plan B?"
3. Have my personal ambitions served for the betterment or for the detriment of the Ameraucana breed and my club?
4. Have I helped a fellow fancier by sharing quality stock, chicks, or eggs?
5. Do I really expect to purchase show-quality stock at bargain basement prices?
6. Have I resolved to help improve the image of this breed through hatching as many chicks as are feasible (for my facilities) in order to have quality birds to show and to share?

Quote: Quality is rarely an accident; it is the result of high intention, diligent effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution. It represents the cumulative results of wise choices from among many alternatives. (anonymous)

Wishing all of you a happy, prosperous, and healthy year. Thanks for your participation.

Mike Gilbert, acting president

BIZARRO



FirstName	LastName	Address1	City	State	PostalCode
ABA	(comp.)	PO Box 127	Augusta,	NJ	07822
APA	(comp.)	133 Millville	Mendon,	MA	01756
John & Lois	Bashaw (F-98)	1785 Bush Valley	La Crescent,	MN	55947
John W.	Blehm (I-98)	4599 Lange	Birch Run,	MI	48415
Don	Cable (I-99)	PO Box 2010	Sparks,	NV	89432
Scott	Eutsler (I-98)	Route 3, Box 373	Stuart,	VA	24171
Jim	Fegan (I-99)	278 County Rd., CNA-W	Champion,	MI	49814
Jeannette	Frank (I-99)	PO Box 824	Great Falls,	MT	59403
Mike & Mary	Gilbert (F-98)	W5171 Baker	Holmen,	WI	54636
Diane & Emma	Gilpin (F-98)	321 2 nd St. W.	Jordon,	MN	55352
Vernon	Green (I-98)	417 Bouck	Burley,	ID	83318
Katie	Helland (J-98)	12100 Center	San Martin,	CA	95046
Jake	Henzel (I-98)	W4769 Million Dollar Rd.	Menominee,	MI	49858-0204
Jay	Horn (I-98)	168 Moore Lane	Arroyo Grande,	CA	93420
Allison	Hoving (J-98)	3616 M-72, W.	Traverse City,	MI	49684
Earl	Jones (I-98)	2180 Froede	Caro,	MI	49723
Bernard	Kellogg (I-99)	PO Box 152	Readstown	WI	54652
Koralyn & Larry	Kibbee (F-98)	9069 Wooden Shoe	Marhatten,	MT	59741
Ron	Klemmedson (I-99)	N27113, US Hwy. 23	Blair,	WI	54616
Rev. William P.	McKinnon (I- 98)	PO Box 9	Flovilla,	GA	30216
Darren & Shannon	Mordecai (F- 98)	380 Southview	Lucas,	TX	75002
Richard	Orr (F-98)	40 Woodlawn	Monroe,	CT	06468
Daniel & Jeanette	Pasche (F-98)	4415 S. Lakeshore	Glenwood,	MN	56334
George	Patterson (I- 98)	4783 County Rd. 19	Kitts Hill,	OH	45645
Mary Lou	Phelps (I-98)	3997 N. Farm, 143	Springfield,	MO	65803
Bill	Phillips (I-98)	1011 Arcadia Lakes	Columbia,	SC	29206

First Name	Last Name	Address 1	City	State	Postal Code
Poultry	Press (comp.)	PO Box 542	Connersville	IN	47331-0542
Robert A.	Rennolet (I-99)	28223 432 nd	Menno,	SD	57045
Jan	Resberg (I-98)	PO Box 7335	Duluth,	MN	55807
Betty	Rundquist (F-98)	4050 E. Iona	Idaho Falls,	ID	83401
Jerry	Segler (I-98)	RR 1, Box 235-D	Spartland,	IL	61565-9619
Jeoffery	Stevens (I-98)	6402 E. Boss Rd.	Clinton,	WI	53525
Ginny	Traeger (I-98)	2458 Hwy. 35	Kalispell,	MT	59901
James	Tuckwood (I-98)	2778 Neff	Boscobel,	WI	53805-9521
Robert	Walchak (F-98)	NB698, County Rd. TT	Holmen,	WI	54636
Lynn	Walker (I-98)	8492 Robertson Springs,	Loudon,	TN	37774
Ruth	Whitney (F-99)	3694 W. Madison	Alma,	MI	48801
Carlton	Yoder (I-98)	61405 Cr. 17	Goshen,	IN	46526

Feed additive makes eggs healthy choice

Cox News Service

AUSTIN, Texas — Americans, nutritionists have long complained, don't eat enough fish, whose oils contain essential fatty acids proven to reduce the risk of heart disease.

To get around that, scientists have sought ways to get the desirable fats into other foods so consumers can get the heart-healthy benefits without having to eat their weight in understated salmon or red snapper.

One of the first to succeed was Mary Van Elswyk, a former assistant professor of poultry science at Texas A&M University. She found an additive for chicken feed that she said gets the principal essential fatty acid, Omega-3, into fresh eggs without a fishy aftertaste.

"I've basically worked with every Omega-3 source there is" before finally settling on a species of micro algae, Van Elswyk said. "It's the best."

When salmon, red snapper and other cold-water fish eat the algae, essential fatty acids build up in their flesh.

Van Elswyk, who has since left Texas A&M for private industry, got hens to eat the algae when it was dried and mixed into their feed. The hens then produced Omega-3-enriched eggs.

Lomnie "Bo" Pilgrim, founder and chairman of Pilgrim's Pride, an East Texas poultry producer, heard about Van Elswyk's work and contacted her about the prospects for a heart-healthy egg.

"He has a horrible family history of heart disease," Van Elswyk said. "He's

had two bypasses. He came to me because of his poultry interest and his heart disease interest."

The result is EggsPlus, a fresh egg that may be the answer for health-conscious egg lovers who want to guiltlessly return to their favorite food.

The Omega-3 eggs cost more than twice as much as ordinary eggs, but according to Van Elswyk, they look, cook and taste the same.

Pilgrim's Pride started selling them this year at Albertson's, Kroger, Tom Thumb and IGA markets in Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Oklahoma City and Los Angeles. A company spokeswoman said the eggs are expected to be available this month in San Antonio and eventually in Austin.

While consumers have shown some resistance to foods that science has tinkered with, such as hormone-treated milk, the eggs carry no bioengineering stigma.

Pilgrim, whose company is the nation's fourth-largest producer of poultry products, said consumers "have the assurance that they are adding good fats to their diet by natural means."

The eggs also are backed by unconfirmed three-month studies conducted by Van Elswyk in Pilgrim's Pride test kitchens.

In the research, which must still be repeated by others to be considered reliable, 80 people at high risk for heart disease ate two of the new eggs five days a week.

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS' CLUB
CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

This organization shall be known as the Ameraucana Breeders' Club.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this club is to encourage the continued improvement of Ameraucana bantams and large fowl through breeding, exhibition, and dissemination of relevant information.

Article III - Membership

Any person or organization with a sincere interest in the purpose of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club may become a member upon payment of the annual dues. However, a member may be expelled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for acts deemed harmful to the Ameraucana breed and/or this organization.

Article IV - Dues

Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be payable on January 1st for each calendar year.

Article V - Organization

Section 1. The officers comprising the Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

President
Vice President(s)
Secretary - Treasurer
District Directors

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership to a term of two years beginning on the first day of January following election. Any officer may be a candidate for reelection.

Section 3. Open positions on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a person selected by the president and approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article VI - Districts

Section 1. The United States shall be divided into districts each having a director, elected by majority vote of the membership within such district, who shall serve as an officer on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors by majority vote may increase, decrease, or rearrange the number of districts as they deem necessary.

Section 3. Members residing in, or citizens of, countries other than the United States of America shall be deemed members of their district of closest geographical proximity.

BYLAWS OF THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS' CLUB

Article I - President

The president shall assume the duties of Chairman of the Board of Directors. He shall be responsible for the execution of the Constitution and Bylaws and shall receive and process all proposals for their amendment. The president shall preside at all club meetings, call special meetings if requested by a majority of the Board, and appoint an Election Commissioner for the biennial election. He shall endeavor to see that all officers properly discharge their duties, take an active part in publicity, public relations, and other activities deemed necessary for the betterment of the club.

Article I(a) - Vice President(s)

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, no more than two persons may hold the office of honorary lifetime vice president at any one time. Persons so nominated by the Board of Directors must be elected by majority vote of the membership at large. A vice president shall assist the president with his or her duties and conduct club meetings in the president's absence.

Article II - Secretary-Treasurer

The secretary-treasurer shall conduct club correspondence, collect and receive all monies due the club, pay all bills undertaken by it, and keep a record of these transactions. The secretary-treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the membership via the club bulletin and interim financial reports at meetings at which a quorum of club officers are present. For this purpose a majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The secretary-treasurer shall be custodian of all club records and be responsible for issuing a quarterly bulletin to all club members detailing current and forthcoming club activities. All club meets shall be processed by the secretary-treasurer to ensure the proper paper work, reports, and awards. The secretary-treasurer shall surrender all files, monies, and other club property to the new secretary-treasurer at the expiration of his or her term of office in a timely fashion.

Article III - District Directors

The district directors shall be responsible for actively promoting the club and its' activities, including the placing of annual district, state, and special meets within their individual districts. They shall also represent the club and assist in planning and carrying out details for the national meet when held within their district. Each district director shall serve as an officer on the Board of Directors, have a vote in determining club policy, assist with coordinating club meets within their district, and take an active part in the recruitment of new members.

Article IV - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall control the affairs of the club at all times and remove from office any officer, upon majority vote of the Board, for misconduct or failure to adequately perform the duties of his or her office.

Article V - Election Commissioner

An election commissioner shall be appointed by the president. The commissioner shall receive all ballots directly from the membership, tally them, and promptly forward the results and the ballots to the secretary-treasurer.

Article VI - Club Meetings

An annual meeting shall take place each year in conjunction with the national meet whenever feasible.

Article VII - Election of Officers

Any paid member in good standing may send in a nomination for candidates for the various offices. All nominees must be members of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club at the time of nomination. Officers shall be elected every two years by means of a mail ballot sent to each member. Such ballots shall be mailed by the secretary-treasurer via the club bulletin in the fall of the election year. All ballots must be marked and returned within ten days after receipt of same directly to the election commissioner. The election shall be completed and the new officers declared by mid-December and the new officers shall assume office on January 1st.

Article VIII - Club Meets

The Ameraucana Breeders' Club shall hold an annual National Meet to be rotated each year among the club districts. Site of the national meet shall be determined by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Should a district be unable to host the national meet in its allotted turn the meet shall pass on to the next district in rotation. The placing of the annual District Meet shall be the prerogative of the district director, who shall assume responsibility for its planning and execution and who shall coordinate these activities with the secretary-treasurer. The district director shall be responsible for a detailed report of results and awards to be sent to the secretary-treasurer promptly at the termination of the meet. Annual state meets and special meets shall be placed by the district director at the request of any member and coordinated with the secretary-treasurer. Members requesting such meets shall assume the responsibilities as outlined for district directors if the director is not in attendance.

Article IX - Interpretation

In all cases of dispute arising from interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club, and on all other matters not covered herein, a majority vote of the Board of Directors shall decide the issue. Such decisions shall be declared final.

Article X - Amendments

Any proposal to amend or alter the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Ameraucana Breeders' Club shall be submitted to the president in writing. He or she will in turn submit the proposal to the Board of Directors who will decide by majority vote whether to place the proposal before the membership for a vote. Proposals passed favorably by the Board of Directors shall be included on the ballot with the biennial election of officers to be voted upon by the membership at large. If adopted by a majority of voting members the amendment shall be made effective on January 1st following the election. The new amendment shall be mailed to each member as a supplement to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Club

* * * * *